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STATINTL

## BONN NOMINATES GENERAL TO NATO

Ex-Wehrmacht Officer Likely  
to Get New Top-Level Post

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BONN, April 14 — West Germany has nominated a former officer of the Wehrmacht General Staff and postwar intelligence expert for the job of making Bonn's voice heard in the strategic direction of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The nominee for the job, officially designated as staff director of the NATO Standing Group, the senior planning body of the alliance, is Brig. Gen. Ernst Ferber, now director of intelligence of the Bundeswehr (armed forces) General Staff. General Ferber, 49 years old, is one of a generation of comparatively young West German officers now moving rapidly into positions of authority.

The post for which he has been proposed was conceived as a means of granting European countries, particularly West Germany, a larger voice in the alliance's strategic direction.

The highest military authority of the alliance is the Standing Group of the NATO Military Committee. The group consists of representatives of the United States, Britain and France.

### Proposed by Heusinger

Shortly before his retirement April 8, Gen. Adolf Heusinger, first head of the West German armed forces, proposed that the Standing Group be provided with a permanent staff on which officers from nations other than the three member powers would serve.

This staff, and particularly its director, would acquire significant influence in long-range planning and strategic decisions.

West Germany, whose NATO contribution in manpower and money exceeds that of Britain or France, has long been restive under its exclusion on political grounds from the top decision-making councils. General Heusinger's plan, now awaiting final approval by the alliance Council in Paris, assumed that the staff director's post would be assigned to a West German officer.

The assumption was challenged by Italy, which staked out a claim for the job. Defense officials here believe, however, that the approaching retirement of the NATO Secretary General, Dr. Dirk U. Stikker, opens a way around the impasse.

West Germany is supporting the candidacy of an Italian diplomat, Count Colonna, to succeed Dr. Stikker. If Count Colonna is elected, Bonn expects General Ferber to be unopposed for the Standing Group.

### Youngest Man on Staff

A career officer in the Wehrmacht, General Ferber was appointed to the General Staff Corps in 1943 at the age of 29. He was one of the youngest officers to be selected for that elite corps of the old German Army.

As an intelligence officer, he served under Gen. Reinhard Gehlen, who directed army intelligence operations on the Eastern Front during World War II. General Gehlen later went into the service of the United States, building a West German intelligence organization comparable to the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

After staff duty in Bonn and a tour at the Atlantic Alliance's Defense College in Paris, General Ferber commanded a tank brigade from 1959 to 1961. He put in a two-year tour as Chief of Staff of the army and was promoted in 1963 to the armed forces staff as chief of intelligence.

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